




Consecration 12.3.2021

Inside This Issue

-  Editor's Note..... 2
-  Perspective: Dr. Scott Levin..... 2
-  Weekly Torah Portions..... 2
-  Inclusion Chanukah.....3
-  Sisterhood Book Club..... 3
-  Building Tomorrow Together... 4
-  Monthly Mensch..... 6
-  Checking in: COVID Task Force.. 7
-  NSSRA New Facility Dedication.. 7
-  Checking in on Social Justice.....8
-  Social Justice Opportunities..... 8
-  Shabbat Shirah..... 9
-  Staff Holiday Celebration..... 10
-  Lately Around Jeremiah.....11
-  Acknowledgments.....12

Chesed: Our Responsibility

By **RABBI RACHEL HEAPS**

Associate Rabbi

rabbiheaps@templejeremiah.org

Early in the 1900s, a Jewish philosopher summarized the relationship between human beings and God, which we often aspire to in our relationships between human beings and other human beings. He described the connection as an “Ich und Du,” “I and Thou,” exchange, as opposed to an “I and it” one. In all of God’s divineness, the way we relate to God takes on higher levels of respect, sanctity, and honor. Our most meaningful human-human relationships can take on similar divine qualities, bringing out the divine spark we see in each other. Martin Buber became famous for his three-word summary of these elevated associations. But what Martin Buber needed three words for, our *lashon kodesh*, our sacred language, only needs one. In German it’s “Ich und Du.” In Hebrew it’s *chesed*.

Often, you’ll hear people translate *chesed* as “loving kindness,” but as is true with all translations the word loses some of its

special nature in our vernacular. *Chesed* might grammatically be a noun, but in truth it connotes a sacred verb, a way of exhibiting a relationship with someone or something else through intentional behavior. I once had a professor in rabbinical school explain the true meaning of *chesed* in the context of her relationship with her son. On the good days, *chesed* enables a “warm fuzzy” feeling, a sense of unconditional support, love, and pride in one another. On the more challenging days, however, *chesed* is expressed through chores and other unexciting responsibilities. Those responsibilities are nevertheless fulfilled, to ease the burden weighing down your *chesed*-partner. Her son might not want to put the dishes in the washer, but does so anyway, because she asked him to.



continued on page 4



By JULES HENSON
Digital Designer/Developer
 j@juleshenson.com

"God is the source of light and life—that which breathes life into this creation and pulsates in all hearts." - PRT

There are ongoing questions and controversies about the universe and God, and what it means to be human. Each of us, at some time in life, question our role in all of it. When considering the theme of this Covenant, "God's Creation, Our Responsibility," let's consider this.

According to Midrash Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:13: "The Holy Blessed One took the first human and passing before all the trees of the Garden of Eden said: 'See my works, how fine and excellent they are? All that I created, I created for you. Reflect on this and do not corrupt or desolate my world; for if you do, there will be no one to repair it after you.'"

Siddhartha Gautama (known more commonly as Buddha) would remain silent when asked certain questions. The questions don't seem unreasonable: *Is the universe eternal? Does life exist after death?* His answers would come in the form of silence and direction toward practical efforts. Consider one of Buddha's responses:

"Suppose a man is struck by a poisoned arrow and the doctor wishes to take out the arrow immediately. Suppose the man does not want the arrow removed until he knows who shot it, his age, his parents, and why he shot it. What would happen?"

When that which God has created has been wounded, we must focus on practical remedies. How can we do that? As Scott Levin says in his article below, we focus on how to preserve the light. As Rabbi Heaps explains, we must understand our *chesed* relationship with God and each other. I hope you'll be inspired by these important lessons, as well as our monthly mensch, Temple's Social Justice Committee, and more in the pages ahead.

Our Responsibility to Protect the Light



By DR. SCOTT LEVIN
Temple President
 scottamy93@aol.com

And God said, "Let there be light." In the creation of the world, this was the very first task, and the light was separated from the darkness. In thinking about our responsibility for God's creation, our responsibility for preserving that light is what primarily enters my mind.

Throughout history, darkness and evil have threatened the light that we all treasure. We have a responsibility to protect and preserve what was created on day one. How can we do this?

First, we can bring light into the spaces we occupy. Kindness, empathy, understanding, patience, flexibility, and the ability to

listen all flood a common space with light. This takes intention, and effort, often when our bandwidth for either is very narrow, especially now. However, paradoxically, spending the energy often returns the energy in multiples.

Second, we can shine light into the darkness, and this is especially important when darkness seems to have a special will. Democracy will not die in the light, but in the darkness. We have a responsibility to speak the truth, expose the lies and manipulations, and demand justice, equity. Quiet only allows darkness to strengthen, making it ever more difficult to separate. This has been true throughout history, and is true again.

The meaningful connection at Temple Jeremiah can be many things. One, for me, is being surrounded by people who feel a deep-seated responsibility to protect God's creation, "Let there be light."

Weekly Torah Portions

We invite you to join us on Saturday mornings to discuss the Torah portion and how it might apply to our lives. We meet virtually and in-person at 9:30 a.m. every Saturday. To join us on Zoom, visit zoom.us/j/132889355.



January 1, 2022*	Va-eira	Exodus 6:2–9:35
January 8, 2022	Bo	Exodus 10:1–13:16
January 15, 2022	B'shalach	Exodus 13:17–17:16
January 22, 2022	Yitro	Exodus 18:1–20:23
January 29, 2022	Mishpatim	Exodus 21:1–24:18

*All Shabbat Worship and Learning Dec 31/Jan 1 - Zoom only. Refer to templejeremiah.org for correct Zoom links.

Inclusion Chanukah: A Big Hit!

By **CAREN BROWN AND GAIL MODRO**
Inclusion Committee Chairs
ceb994@gmail.com and gailmodro@comcast.net



Temple Jeremiah's Inclusion Committee hosted another terrific virtual program on December 5th. We had a grand time singing songs, listening to the Chanukah story, lighting chanukiyah, and participating in fun activities like the scavenger hunt and "What's the Best Thing about Chanukah?" The singing by Cantor Amy and Cantor Friedman was a big hit and brought a smile to many faces. The video of the Selah Choir performing (which included two of those who were on the live screen) was a special treat! Everyone seemed to have fun despite the distance between us.

Prior to the virtual program, committee members assembled Chanukah gift bags filled with lots of goodies and delivered them to each person who had pre-registered. Once again, it was a great way to connect with people more personally.

Statistically, there were twenty-one "squares" on the screen and a total of thirty-three people attended. We had eleven families represented; six were Jeremiah members, five were not, plus two

families with grandchildren of members. We served nine individuals who have disabilities.

We received several thank you emails with glowing comments like this, "Thank you everyone! Beautiful program! Harry adores his gift bag! Another incredible example of *chesed* from your kind, caring volunteers and clergy!" and "Sarah had a wonderful time at the Chanukah party. She was very proud to have her own Menorah. She showed it to her sister, niece, and nephew on FaceTime. She wanted to keep lighting the candles over and over. Whew. What a hit."



Sarah Mendel enjoying Inclusion Chanukah

The people most responsible for this event were Cantor Amy and her subcommittee of Shirley Craven, Teena Crane, Alan and Susie Slutsky, Barb Kite, Shelly Trilling, Liz Mendel, and Elan Adler. They deserve a huge thank you for all their hard and thoughtful work!

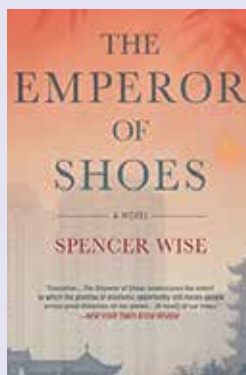
Another big thank you goes to all our clergy for being such an important part of this inclusion program in both spirit and action. They exemplify the joy of belonging to Temple Jeremiah!

The Inclusion Committee will be hosting a special weekend in February to commemorate Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). Watch for details. We hope you will attend our programs.

Sisterhood Book Club

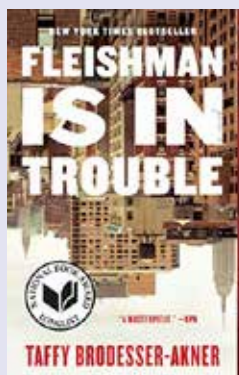
NOTE: We're planning an in-person meeting (wearing masks)!

Thursday, January 13, 2022 ~ 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
The Emperor of Shoes, By Spencer Wise



Alex is from Boston, 26, and Jewish. Now living in China to help with the family shoe business, Alex and his father have a difficult relationship! Add to that a romance with a seamstress and "a fascinating look at contemporary China."
 - *Booklist*

Thursday, February 10, 2022 ~ 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Fleishman is in Trouble, By Taffy Brodesser-Akner



Follow Toby in this "potent, upsetting and satisfying novel, illustrating how the marital pledge—build our life together—overlooks a key fact: There are two lives."
 - *The New York Times Book Review*

Contact Vicki Siegelman at vsieg@gralynn.org for more information or to join.

Rabbi Heaps (continued from page 1)

The same is true with our *chesed*-filled relationship with God. On the good days, we can see and feel divine care all around us. On the more difficult days, when God feels more distant and the relationship feels strained, we continue to act on behalf of, and in communication with, God because that is what God asks of us. It might not be easy, but it is an essential part of any *chesed* based relationship. What I truly appreciate about this framework is that responsibility shifts away from the task itself and refocuses on the bond. It's not actually about clearing the table of the dirty dishes (though I highly encourage everyone eat off of clean plates), it's about the bond between mother and son. It's not actually about fulfilling the *mitzvah* (commandment) of giving \$18 to *tzedakah*, it's about the bond between us, God, and the ongoing acts of creation.

Way back when, God might have been the one to create the world with a single word, but now that we are in *chesed* with God, continuing and preserving creation becomes our responsibility too. The burden is no longer on God's metaphoric shoulders, but rather is a responsibility that we are honored to share. In sharing the responsibility of caring for creation, we continue to elevate our relationship with God and grow the foundation of *chesed* to ever growing possibilities. What better way to commune with God and divine power than by accepting our responsibility as co-caretaker, on the easy days as well as the hard ones. May we be so blessed as to fulfill our responsibility for *chesed* every day of our lives.

Thank You To Our Community



By LESLIE LANDMAN
Director of Philanthropy
leslie@templejeremiah.org

While the fundraising aspect of our *Building Tomorrow Together* Campaign ended with the close of 2021, we will continue to celebrate the success and impact of the campaign in 2022!

In case you missed the video emailed in December, featuring Rabbi Cohen and our campaign co-chairs, Barb Miller, David Golder, and Ken Lorch, here is a recap of that message:

In early September, we shared the news that we were leading an important initiative to financially secure the future of our Temple, the *Building Tomorrow Together* Campaign. We are so proud to tell

you that we have raised over \$4 million in this effort! This result far exceeded our initial expectation. The funds raised not only cover the capital improvements of our building and grounds, but they also strengthen our endowment, in particular our building endowment, by offsetting the significant annual shortfall in our revenue to pay for building maintenance expenses. We worked hard to make sure that every temple member knew about the campaign, understood the needs, and had the opportunity to participate in a personally meaningful way. The success of this campaign is a tribute to our community today, and a gift to our community of tomorrow. *L'dor V'dor*.

If you would like to view the video, please visit templejeremiah.org/btt-thank-you.

Thanks to all our donors for their support and to our entire community for taking the time to learn about this effort.

We thank all our donors for their generous support*

Gilbert and Harriet Adelstein
Elan Adler and Bill Johnson
Julie and Joel Africk
Charles and Marla Alexander
Jeanne and Gabriel Angres
The Ardell Family
Tom and Lisa Aronson
Edward and Cathy Atkins/Lawrence z"l and Darlene Gilford
Ivy Baruch and Cary Green
The Basofin Family
Anonymous
Julie and Kevin Becker
The Bellows Family
Leslie Berman
Michael and Minda Bernberg
Marc and Claire Bernstein
Trudy Bers
Joel and Susan Bersh and Family
Dick and Dee Bittman

The Steve Blinderman Family
Alla and Jim Block
Janet and David Blum
Lisa and Darryl Bradford
David and Arden Brenner
Bill and Norma Brown
Caren Brown
Stephen Brown
Sima Browne
Phyllis Burg
Randi and Barry Carr
Paul and Mara Chaiken
Laurie and Eric Chern
Deborah and Michael Cogan
Jay and Shelley Cohen
Rabbi Paul and Cathy Cohen
Ron and Doris Cohen
Warren and Barri Colman
Judy and Jack Craven
The Family of Shirley Craven

Rob Dann and Erica Regunberg
Judy Denenberg, Andy and Roberta Denenberg, Terry and Gail Belian
Rand and Rhonda Diamond
Jonathan Don and Elizabeth Blodgett
David Eaton and Dr. Louanne Smolin
Nancy and Arnee Eisenberg
The Fein and Guralnick Families
The Feis Family
Jamie and Darren Feld
Chad and Melissa Feldman
Joe and Adrienne Feldman
Jon and Michelle Fellman
Gerson and Ilene Field
Julie and Jim Ford
The Foster Family
Irene and Jay Frank
Ross Friedman and Cantor Susan Lewis Friedman
Tori and Jeremy Franklin
Alene Frost

continued on next page

Carlos and Sandy Frum
 Patricia and Richard Geline
 Michael Gershowitz and Jennifer Gong Gershowitz
 Jeanne and Ron Gieseke
 Krystal and Danny Glassman
 David and Anni Goldberg
 Mr. and Mrs. David Goldberg
 David and Carol Golder
 The Golder Family
 Linda and Michael Goorvich
 Kay and Bart Gordon
 David Goroff and Jay Behel
 Avi and Allyson Greenfield
 Randi and Charles Gurian
 Bruce R. and Jamie K. Hague
 Jani and Steve Harris
 The Hart Family
 Rabbi Rachel L. Heaps
 Allen z"l and Nancy Hirschfield
 Debbie and Gary Holzman
 Judith Homer
 Bonnie and Herb Horn
 Bronwyn and Ken Jacobson
 The Jones Family
 Michael and Fern Kamen
 Dr. Jason and Mrs. Nicole Kane and Family
 Anne and Bob Kaplan and Family
 Marilyn and Yale Kaplan
 Tom and Ellen Kaplan
 Lori and Gary Kash
 Kenneth and Barbara Kaufman
 Mark and Christine Kaufman and Family
 Diana Kaufmann
 Sue and Joel Kaufmann
 Brian and Gail Kayman
 Barbara Kite
 Steve and Lisa Kleiman and Family
 Julie Kosarin and Larry Kart
 Philip and Jacqueline Krause & Family
 Elen and Jeff Krupp
 Mindy and Randy Kurtz
 The Landman/Feigelson Family
 Mara and Gerry Lane
 Howard and Gail Lanznar
 Charles Laurito
 Scott and Amy Levin
 The Levine-Goldberg Family
 Lisa and Steve Levy

Anne and Jerry Lidsky
 Leslie, Steve, Margo, and Alex Lipschultz
 Ken and Susan Lorch
 Debbie and David Lorig Family
 The Loundy Family
 Ted and Jane Braun-Lowy
 Patty and Fred Lurie
 Jackie and Marvin Lutz
 Michele and John Maeglin
 Harry and Lauren Major
 Brooke and Michael Mandrea
 Joyce and Fred Marcus
 The Matles Family
 Carol Maxon
 Randi and Jim Mayer
 The Mayer Family
 Joe Meis and Suzi Weiss
 Jill and Jeff Meltzer
 Liz Trager and Scott M. Mendel
 Barbara and Stephen Miller
 Deborah Millman
 Carol Mitchel
 Michael and Phyllis Mitzen
 The Modro Family
 Ric and Sue Newman
 Jill Odzer
 Dr. Gerald and Marcia Osher
 Hershy Pappadis
 The Patano Family
 Scott and Alisa Patterson and Family
 Michael and Jennifer Pfeifer
 The Phillips Family
 Mark and Gail Pierce
 Sue Pinsky-Gardner
 Michael Pollak
 The Dieffenbacher & Ratkin Family
 Anne and Greg Richards
 Phyllis Richmond and Chris Scotese
 Matt and Brittany Rissien
 Susan and Gary Rockoff
 The Rogers Family
 Alan and Karen Rohrbach and Family
 Ron and Betsy Rooth
 The Rossiello Family
 Ed and Emmy Rothschild
 Joel and Dianne Rovner
 Brian and Danielle Ruben
 Amy and Brian Rubinstein
 Shari and Jeffrey Sacks

Noel and Brittney Saks and Family
 Carol and Lee Saldinger
 Sarabeth Salzman
 Babette and Jeffrey Sanders
 Ron and Andrea Sandler
 Nancy and David Sarne
 Michael and Molly Schack
 Jennifer and Noah Schnepfer
 The Schoenberg Family
 Rabbi Robert and Patricia Schreiberman
 Ernest and Linda Schubert
 Lisa and Brian Schurgin
 Hal and Cindy Schwartz
 Scott Schwartz and Melissa Field
 Michael and Marcy Seiler
 Scott Semar and Sandy Wagman
 The Shabelman Family
 Laurel and Edward Shapiro
 Justin and Robin Sheperd
 Carolyn Sherman
 Myra Shneider
 Rachel and Marvin Siegel
 The Silverstein Family
 Natalie and Barry Slotnick
 Valerie Slotnick
 The Snower Family
 The Stolberg Family
 Vicki and Jay Stoller
 Mark Sulkin and Shelley McNaughton Sulkin
 Peggy and Jim Swartchild
 Judy and Jerry Tatar
 Alan and Ellen Toban
 Ben and Cydney Topaz
 Amy and Jason Torf
 Ken and Naoko Tornheim
 Steven L. and Stephanie A. Victor
 The Vorona Family
 Francie Walls and Family
 Mary and Jerry Weinberg
 Dr. Mark and Julie Weinberg and Family
 Amy and Brad Weintraub
 Mimi and Jay Weisbach
 Barry Goldman and Victoria Weisenberg
 Susan and Daniel Weitzman and Family
 Maralee and Ed Wicks
 Jody Haas-Wolfson and Ross Wolfson
 Richard and Jamie Zelin
 Laura and Bruce Zimmerman
 Cantor Amy Zussman and David Fell

**For the most up-to-date list of donors, please visit tinyurl.com/btt-donors.*



Follow Us on Facebook!

Search for Temple Jeremiah and click the "Like" button. So easy!

♥ Upcoming events

♥ Shabbat Shalom Message

♥ Pictures from school

♥ Youth event pictures

♥ Announcements

♥ And much more!

Vicki Siegelman: A Path of Love and Healing

Many Jeremiahs may know Vicki Siegelman because of her beautiful flute performances at Temple or her ongoing leadership of Sisterhood's Book Club. These are both true of Vicki, but what most don't know is that her flute playing doesn't start or end at Temple, and Vicki's life has been a path of love and service. Vicki joined Temple Jeremiah 30+ years ago looking for a place where her children could enjoy attending religious school with friends that they knew. She never hesitated being involved. Her career as a School Librarian made her the perfect person to take on the role as the organizer of Sisterhood's Book Club. Her dedication from the beginning, seven years ago, has helped the group grow into what it is now. She suggests titles, writes monthly blurbs for the Covenant, and keeps the calendar up to date. Vicki has always been a part of book clubs throughout her life, but she believes there is something special about this one. She explained, "Book clubs are often great places for sharing, but our Jeremiah Sisterhood Book Club is different in a very Jewish way." "We read books with Jewish themes, settings, characters, or authors," which has exposed her to ideas, history, and ways of life that she wouldn't otherwise experience. She explained, "It's changed my perspective, and opened new understandings in a way that only Judaica could."

Vicki first played her flute at Temple to give a flute recital, and later was recruited by Cantor Amy Zussman, who was organizing a volunteer band, fondly known—then and now—as the Jeremiah Bullfrogs. She and her husband, David, a fellow musician, have been playing for Temple's special services for many years. It's something they enjoy doing together. As a child, Vicki was offered musical opportunities that only a small few are given. Since then, she has performed in orchestras, duos, quartets, trios, pit orchestras (which accompanies musical theatre), marching bands, and as a solo flutist. Her most recent musical adventure was for her youngest grandchild's bar mitzvah. Arranged by her husband, her whole family played a rendition of *L'dor V'dor*. David, was on violin; one grandchild on French horn; another on baritone sax; the bar mitzvah boy & mom on vocals; dad on clarinet; and Vicki on flute. To Vicki, "It was a totally unusual and wonderful experience," and one she won't forget.

Her life as a musician has taken her on many journeys, but this next one began when, in her words, "serendipity" had her attending a flute conference at the last-minute in 2015. It was there that she met a fellow musician who had been working as a Certified Music Practitioner (CMP). Learning about what CMPs do was a turning point for Vicki. This, she felt, was a missing piece in both her musical life and her path in general. She quickly signed up to train as a CMP, and hasn't looked back. After retiring from her career as a Librarian at Loyola Academy, she went on to do her CMP internship at Loyola Medical Center, and stayed on to volunteer with the Palliative Care Department.

Certified Music Practitioners are not well known, but they should be. This work is for musicians who want to provide comfort and



Vicki Siegelman with Gofran, the mother of the Iraqi refugee family that Vicki helps

healing to people who need either or both. According to Vicki, sometimes the music helps to make them feel better as they transition into the next world, and sometimes it will help them fully recover from an ailment. It can ease pain which may lead to sleeping or eating better. At times it can help a patient simply relax enough to sleep, which aids in healing. During training, she learned how to analyze blood pressure, respiration, and other various items. She even described how the human heart is trained to stay in beat with music, so if a patient has a rapid heart rate, calming music with a certain number of beats per minute, will bring the heart rate down. Vicki has worked in heart, thoracic, burn, and neonatal intensive care units. She has also worked with vigil patients (when patients are in rooms for hospice). This has led her to situations where she has played for patients' family members who have only moments earlier lost their loved one. To Vicki, this healing work has been something she's been drawn to all her life.

Vicki's volunteering does not end with her music. At Temple, along with playing in the Bullfrogs and leading Sisterhood's Book Club, Vicki has also volunteered with Temple Jeremiah on several other occasions. She played an active and large role in the lives of Edwina & Georgette, the two sisters from the Democratic Republic of Congo—whom Temple Jeremiah, together with St. Francis Xavier Church of Wilmette, helped bring to Chicago. Vicki referred to herself and a few others as the "moms," explaining how it was the sisters that coined that name. She remembers Edwina lovingly calling her "mom" in her greetings. For years, Vicki, along with other volunteers, served the sisters by helping them in ways most mothers help their children. When they came to the US, they knew nothing about the language, the culture, and how to survive outside of what they had known, having lived the previous eighteen years with little to no electricity in a rural refugee camp in Zambia. Vicki and the others were their teachers and mentors, everything from counting and English to addressing envelopes, taking garbage out, applying for government services, and how

continued on next page



Vicki with her husband, David Baldwin

to use the services. She went along with them to shop, to health appointments, and so much more.

This was not Vicki's first chosen commitment to refugees. While working as a Librarian at Loyola Academy, she was required to volunteer (either a one-off opportunity or a semester long stint). It was ten plus years ago that Vicki chose to volunteer to help a refugee family from Iraq for a semester. Her required semester turned to years. Over and over again, Vicki signed up to help the same family. She helped teach the kids and mentor the parents. Volunteering days would turn into family dinners together. One of the children, at the time she started volunteering with them, was in fourth grade. That same child, now twenty-three, recently called the other day to ask for advice. They say that even just a smile can turn around someone's day. If that's true, then the amount of days that have been turned around by Vicki is innumerable. And she's still at it.

COVID-19 Task Force Update

Beloved Friends,

Patience, understanding, and flexibility are three of the key *middot*, core values, that guided us in the planning and implementation of our COVID-19 protocols. We are so grateful to have safely and meaningfully reached this point. With the New Year of 2022 comes new hope for a better tomorrow. J-Quest, our religious education program, is off to an amazing start, led by our Director of Congregational Learning, Matt Rissien. Matt, along with our stellar teaching staff, has created meaningful and joyful in-person and digital learning for our students. With one semester complete, we look to the new semester with even greater excitement.

Throughout the pandemic, our COVID-19 Task Force has met to analyze current information regarding the virus and our response to it. We met on December 14th, and in reviewing the latest data we have, as well as our own experiences at Temple Jeremiah, the Task Force recommends the following adjustments to our policies:

Food at Events:

Being successful in safely reintroducing food to some of our programming, including family celebrations, Torah Study, and congregational dinners:

- Beginning in January, we will be bringing back a small Oneg following Kabbalat Shabbat worship.
- Onegs will take place in the Slotnick Social Hall and/or the stage area and will be physically distanced.
- Individuals may remove their masks only when eating or drinking.
- Seating at tables will be reduced to a maximum of 6-8 people per table (depending on table size).
- All food served will be individually wrapped.

All other policies will remain in place until further notice.

New NSSRA Facility Dedicated to Dr. Mitchell Slotnick



This past October, the NSSRA dedicated its brand new state-of-the-art facility, in honor of Dr. Mitchel Slotnick, of blessed memory. Mitchell, his wife, Valerie, and their two sons, Barry and Jay, were members of the Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association

(NSSRA) for over forty years. Jay is still an active member today. And it was with the help of Mitchell, the NSSRA foundation was created. Since the onset, they have raised over \$6 Million.

Mitchell was active with NSSRA until his passing in 2018. His son, Barry, has remained active on the board, and it was with the family's generous donation that the association was able to fund the purchase and renovation of the new Mitchell L. Slotnick Center—a 30,000 square foot facility, with 16,000 square feet of dedicated program space. This has helped to foster the association's mission, which is to enrich the lives of people with disabilities in partner communities through quality recreation services. NSSRA has over five hundred annual programs and services for youth, teens, and adults with special needs.

Another Humanitarian Project with HIAS



Georgette with her twin daughters, Debbie and Bernadette

By **MARCIA OSHER, BARBARA MILLER, AND DANA GARBARSKI**
Co-Lead Organizers, Project with HIAS

Many of you will remember the thrilling and rewarding experience Temple Jeremiah had when it welcomed two refugee sisters at O'Hare airport February 3rd, 2017. The initial mentoring months were time intensive but very gratifying. The first priority for

Edwina and Georgette was learning our mass transit system so they could go to work. This required several "practice trips" with them on the Metra to O'Hare where they worked cleaning airplanes. The second priority was explaining our banking system and setting up bank accounts so they could deposit their paychecks. Additionally, they were not familiar with our monetary system, so we had to play cash register games to help them learn how to count money. Now, almost five years later, the sisters are married with two children each and thriving in America!

Temple Jeremiah is now embarking on another humanitarian project with HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). We will be hosting an Afghan family consisting of a mom, dad and three boys ages two, five and seven. The family will be arriving in Chicago around January 24th-31st and will be housed in an apartment in Rogers Park.

A little background. 65,000 individuals from Afghanistan were air lifted and brought to the United States where they have been staying at military bases across the country. Illinois has committed to help 1500 and there are seven agencies in Illinois, including HIAS, that are helping to resettle these families.

Temple Jeremiah has organized a group of temple volunteers who will help set up the apartment, mentor the family for a minimum of three months, and raise money for support. Please reach out to Barb Miller at bmiller54@comcast.net or Dana Garbarski at dana.garbarski@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

To sign up to help provide household items, visit tinyurl.com/hias-collection.

To see how you can support the Afghan Adjustment Act, visit tinyurl.com/truah-afghan-adjustment-act.

Upcoming Social Justice Opportunities

Feed the Hungry

We are seeking volunteers on **the first Sunday of every month**. Please help us Feed the Hungry by volunteering at Temple, or by packing lunches at home! This quick, family-friendly activity can take place at home over the weekend and lunches can be dropped off at Temple Jeremiah before 11:00 a.m. Each lunch should consist of the following: two meat sandwiches (two slices per sandwich of any lunch meat), small bag of chips, fruit (apple, orange, etc.), and two cookies. Every lunch helps!

To get involved, visit: tinyurl.com/FeedTheHungry2021-2022. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Miller at stephenmiller2854@gmail.com.

Backpack Blessings

Backpack Blessings feeds children who are never sure where they will get their next meal. We help children stay nourished over weekends by sending them home from school on Fridays with a bag full of food. Each backpack contains enough food for two breakfasts, two lunches/dinners and two snacks. Our efforts help between 40-50 students in need at two schools in Highland Park.

Backpack Blessings is dependent on volunteers who give of their time once a month to pack and deliver food. Members and guests are welcome. Our next sessions are **January 16th and February 20th**. To get involved, visit: tinyurl.com/BPB2021-2022. For questions, contact Jacki Krashin at jackikrashin@gmail.com or Melanie Morrow at stein.melanie@gmail.com.

Humanitarian Project with HIAS

Temple Jeremiah is embarking on another humanitarian project with HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). We will be hosting an Afghan family who will be arriving in Chicago around **January 24th-31st** and will be housed in an apartment in Rogers Park.

Temple Jeremiah has organized a group of Temple volunteers who will help set up the apartment, mentor the family for a minimum of 3 months, and raise money for support. If you would like to help, please contact Barb Miller bmiller54@comcast.net or Dana Garbarski dana.garbarski@gmail.com.

Yoga

Looking for something to do while your kids are in Sunday school? Come join us, on **February 13th**, for a yoga class at Temple! All experience levels welcome. Masks required. For ages 8 and up. BYO Yoga Mat.

To learn more about Temple Jeremiah's Social Justice programs and to get involved, visit: templejeremiah.org/engage/social-justice-programs.



BEING ALIVE: SONGS ABOUT LIVING BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM

EXPERIENCE SHABBAT SHIRAH, OUR ANNUAL SHABBAT OF SONG, WITH OUR ADULT CHOIR AND SPECIAL GUESTS! JOIN US AS WE READ B'SHALACH AND, THROUGH A SELECTION OF SONGS BY COMPOSER STEPHEN SONDHEIM, COMMEMORATE THE ISRAELITES CROSSING TO FREEDOM.

Shabbat Shirah
WITH
TEMPLE JEREMIAH'S
ADULT CHOIR



FRIDAY,
JANUARY 14TH
6:30 P.M.

Featuring



ANDREW
BLENDERMANN



PAUL
DYKSTRA



CANTOR SUSIE
LEWIS FRIEDMAN



ED
SHAPIRO



RABBI
RACHEL HEAPS



MATT
RISSIEN

Jeremiah Staff Celebrate

Always looking for more ways to bring light, the staff at Temple celebrated the holidays together with lunch and paint!



**Stay Up to Date
with Our Calendar**

To learn about
upcoming events, visit:
tinyurl.com/TJ-Calendar



Consecration 12.3.2021



Feed the Hungry 12.5.2021



Our Chanukah Celebrations 12.5.2021

Acknowledgments

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Rachel Heaps

-Babette and Jeffrey Sanders

IN HONOR OF

Danny Glassman

On the occasion of his special birthday

-Lori and Gary Kash

Joan Golder

On the occasion of her special birthday

-Susan and Ken Lorch

Casey Goldberg

Son of Ellen and David Goldberg, *on the occasion of his marriage to Elyse Saretsky*
- Casey Goldberg and Elyse Saretsky

Sami Goldstein

Daughter of Lori and Andy Goldstein, *on the occasion of her marriage to Adam Levick*
-Susan and Ken Lorch

Jordan Pfeifer

Son of Jennifer and Michael Pfeifer, *on the occasion of his engagement to Michelle Gould*

-Lori and Gary Kash

Brian Rubinstein

On the occasion of his special birthday

-William, Staci, Hannah, and Sarah Rubinstein

Shira Bella Tatar

Granddaughter of Judy and Jerry Tatar, *on the occasion of her birth*

-Susan and Ken Lorch

Tyler Torf

Son of Amy and Jason Torf, grandson of Vicki Siegelman and David Baldwin, and Jeffrey and Rita Torf, *on the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah*

-Lori and Gary Kash

IN MEMORY OF

Hyman Adelstein

Father of Gil Adelstein

-Harriet and Gil Adelstein

Leroy Chelemsky

Brother of Charlotte Fink

-Charlotte and Howard Fink

Jack Cohen

Father of Ron Cohen

-Doris and Ron Cohen

Lenny Davis

-Carol and Arnie Fishbain

Sol Feinberg

Father of Ellen Toban

-Ellen and Alan Toban

Nathan Goffman

Father of Don Goffman

-Lynn and Don Goffman

Howard Goode

Ex-husband of Sheila Goode

-Sheila Goode

Arnold Green

Father of Stuart Green

-Janine and Stuart Green

Jean Green

Mother of Cary Green

-The Family of Jean Green

Chuck Hirsh

-Husband of Muriel Kaplan

Lillian Kalin

-Dina Azrikan

-Lori and Gary Kash

-Richard Raskin

Norman Kosarin

Father of Julie Kosarin

-Marla and Chuck Alexander

-Caren Brown

-Lori and Andy Goldstein

-Randi and Charles Gurian

-Ellen and Alan Toban

Clara Lieberman

Father of Carol Fishbain

-Carol and Arnie Fishbain

Lillian Liebman

Mother of Marty Liebman, grandmother of Adam Liebman and Stephanie Schoenberg

-The Liebman and Schoenberg Families

Tibby Rissien

Grandmother of Matt Rissien

-Susan and Ken Lorch

Spencer Rogers

Son of Julie Rogers

-Judy and Jack craven

-Diana Kaufmann

Ina Simon

Mother of Jennifer Pfeifer

-Barri and Rusty Colman

-Randi and Charles Gurian

-Lori and Gary Kash

-Michele and John Maeglin

-Dianne and Joel Rovner

-Sari and Paul Shuman

Louise Stein

Mother of Pamela Katz

-Beth and Scott Cohen

-The Family of Louise Stein

Edmund Tryba

Father of Patricia Salk

-Patricia and Steve Salk

Max Tucker

-Phyllis and Jim Klapman

Bennett Zaiken

Brother of Phyllis Klapman

-Phyllis and Jim Klapman

Herb Zimmerman

Brother of Eileen Brottman

-Susan and Ken Lorch

Donate to Temple Jeremiah

Making a donation to Temple Jeremiah is a wonderful way to honor a friend or family member on their happy occasion or to memorialize a loved one. You can make a donation in two easy ways:

1. Click on "Make a Donation" at templejeremiah.org or visit the Member Login section and click on "Donate" to donate online via credit card or ACH/eCheck.
2. Mail a check to Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Road, Northfield, IL, 60093. Be sure to include a note as to what the donation is for and which fund you prefer.

Your Donation Supports:

Temple Jeremiah Annual Fund • Temple Jeremiah Endowment Fund • Temple Jeremiah Building Maintenance Fund • Social Justice Fund • Education Fund • Stanley Golder Interfaith Initiative Fund • Marshall B. & Viola R. Schwimmer Library Fund • Prayer Book and Torah Commentary Fund • Caring Community • The Bill and Norma Brown Fund for Lifelong Learning • The InterAct Fund for Youth Programming • The Fern M. Kamen Fund for Youth • Joseph H. Goldberg Family Fund for Special Needs Programming • The Cantor Amy Zussman Fund for Music • Brotherhood Fund • Sisterhood Fund
Discretionary Funds: Rabbi Paul F. Cohen • Rabbi Rachel L. Heaps • Cantor Susan Lewis Friedman

Let's Go Back 23 Years: From Past Executive Director, Fern Kamen

From the Executive Director's Desk by Fern M. Kamen

When I was walking through the hall with a new member family, we stopped in front of the Wall of Life. When I began to describe why we commissioned Karen Gunderman to design our wall, I realized that many families do not have the history about the magnificent artwork that grace our temple walls. During this, our 40th Anniversary year we will be featuring one of our art pieces each month.



hold leaves which will be engraved commemorating happy events in the lives of temple families. It is our sincere hope that the Wall of Life will not only enhance the beauty of our temple, but will also give testimony to the love and joy in our lives and honor those dear to us.

Karen chose the verdant landscape of Jerusalem to express growth, hope and joy. The columns surrounding the clay sculpture

If you want more information on placing a leaf on our Wall of Life, call me in the temple office at (847) 441-5760.

January 1999, From the Desk of Fern Kamen, Past Executive Director

When I was walking through the hall with a new member family, we stopped in front of the Wall of Life. When I began to describe why we commissioned Karen Gunderman to design our wall, I realized that many families do not have the history about the magnificent artwork that grace our temple walls. During this, our 40th Anniversary year we will be featuring one of our art pieces each month.

Karen chose the verdant landscape of Jerusalem to express growth, hope, and joy. The columns surrounding the clay sculpture hold leaves which will be engraved commemorating happy events in the lives of Temple families.

It is our sincere hope that the Wall of Life will not only enhance the beauty of our temple, but will also give testimony to the love and joy in our lives and honor those dear to us.



Our Memorial Wall and Wall of Life Giving

If you wish to create a permanent remembrance of your loved ones, please consider adding their names to Temple Jeremiah's Memorial Wall. This beautiful wall commemorates those who touched our lives but are no longer with us.

A leaf on our Wall of Life is a meaningful way to share your happy occasion with the Temple community in a lasting way. It permanently marks a celebration such as a birth, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, special birthday, wedding or anniversary.

For questions about Memorial Wall plaques or Wall of Life leaves, please contact Danny Glassman at danny@templejeremiah.org.



A law firm concentrating its practice in estate planning, business succession planning, trust and estate administration.

Hamilton Thies & Lorch LLP

Bob Hamilton | Ken Lorch | Ryan Walsh
Bill Fairbanks | Afton Gauron | Allyson Pafias | Robert Schur
200 South Wacker Drive, Suite 3800, Chicago, IL 60606
P: 312.650.8650 | www.htl-law.com



LENDING A HELPING HAND TO THE CHICAGO ELDERLY.

companions for seniors

866-910-9020 • COMPANIONSFORSENIORS.COM

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME!

ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **Marcia Boswell** to place an ad today!
mboswell@4LPi.com
or **(800) 950-9952 x2246**



LOWER ELECTRIC
HELPING COMPANIES SAVE ON ENERGY

Lower Electric has helped thousands of businesses save money on their energy bills. We stand ready to do the same for your organization.
Ph: 847.272.0700 | Fax: 847.498.4873
info@lowerelectric.com | www.lowerelectric.com
Licensed by the ICC - Fully insured and bonded

RICK SHOEMAKER President/Owner

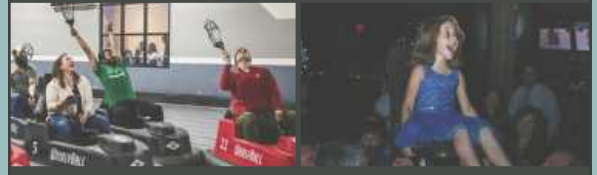


1500 Old Skokie Road
Highland Park, IL 60035
Phone: 847-831-3165
Fax: 847-831-6044

WHIRLYBALL

Chicago | Naperville | Vernon Hills

THROW A PARTY THAT KICKS TUCHAS!



SIMCHAS • CORPORATE EVENTS • BIRTHDAY PARTIES
Kosher catering available • whirlyball.com

WE'VE NOW OPENED OUR OWN MORTUARY FACILITY IN NORTHBROOK

WE CAN NOW CARE FOR THE DECEASED MORE DIRECTLY STILL WITHOUT CHAPELS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO SAVE FAMILIES WHO CHOOSE TO HAVE FUNERALS AT GRAVESIDE, OR FROM THEIR SYNAGOGUE THOUSANDS!
(WWW.COMPAREMITZVAH.COM)



Mitzvah Memorial Funerals

3100 Dundee Road #801, Northbrook, IL 60062
(Landwehr Rd., 1/2 block North of Dundee Rd.)
630-MITZVAH (648-9824) www.mitzvahfunerals.com

SINCE OPENING IN 2010 WE'VE DIRECTED OVER 2,600 FUNERAL SERVICES INCLUDING MANY AT TEMPLE JEREMIAH

ARRANGEMENTS IN OUR CHAPELS OR IN YOUR HOME

CHICAGO
JEWISH
FUNERALS

PROUD PROVIDER OF THE TEMPLE JEREMIAH FUNERAL PLAN

The way it should be.
847.229.8822
chicagojewishfunerals.com

WE'RE HIRING

AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION. WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid Training
- Some Travel
- Work-Life Balance
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Serve Your Community



Contact us at careers@4lpi.com
www.4lpi.com/careers

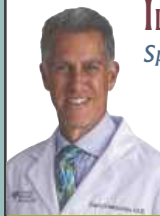
BRATSCHI PLUMBING

A Family Business Providing Complete Plumbing Service Since 1937

Licensed & Insured

(847) 446-1421

801 Oak Street, Winnetka
www.bratschiinc.com



Dr. David Hakimian

ILLINOIS CANCER SPECIALISTS

Specializing in Cancer and Blood Disorders

8915 Golf Rd
Niles
847-827-9060



Our Only Care is You™

www.illinoiscancerspecialists.com

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.lpicommunities.com

Temple Jeremiah, Northfield, IL

A 4C 01-1175



Shalom Memorial Funeral Home
Shalom Memorial Park

Serving our community faithfully - Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.
 One Number, One Call, One Shalom
847-255-3520

Piano, music theory, vocal coaching and Judaic tutoring offered by professional musician - Rabbi.

**Your home preferred.*

Cell: **(609) 923-4836** or

E-mail: **andybossov@gmail.com**

**AVAILABLE FOR
 A LIMITED TIME!**

ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **Marcia Boswell**
 to place an ad today!
mboswell@4LPi.com
 or **(800) 950-9952 x2246**

WE'RE HIRING

AD SALES EXECUTIVES

BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION. WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Work-Life Balance
- Paid Training
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Some Travel
- Serve Your Community

Contact us at **careers@4lp.com**
www.4lp.com/careers



**ADT-Monitored
 Home Security**

Get 24-Hour Protection
 From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide



SafeStreets

1-855-225-4251



**SUPPORT THE
 ADVERTISERS**
*that Support
 our Community!*



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.lpicommunities.com

Temple Jeremiah, Northfield, IL

B 4C 01-1175



Standard Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #269
Skokie, IL

Contains Dated Material

937 Happ Road
Northfield, IL 60093

Phone: 847.441.5760
School Phone: 847.441.0202

*An affiliate of the Union
for Reform Judaism*

Visit us at templejeremiah.org

PURIM SHPIEL

Esther: A Persian Musical

*Save the Date for our take on the music
of Hamilton, An Americal Musical, set
to the Purim Story. Staring our very own
Temple Jeremiah community members
and the Don Cagen Orchestra.*

March 16, 2021

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

